

## United States Department of the Interior



## **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Tuscarora Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\_field\_office.html

DEC 3 0 2014

In Reply Refer To: 4130 (NVE0200)

Dear Reader,

The Tuscarora Field Office is now beginning the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, which will be analyzing livestock grazing on the Andrae and Spanish Ranch Allotments and is requesting public input related to this project.

The Draft Standard and Guidelines Assessment (S&G) for the Spanish Ranch and Andrae Allotments was completed in February 2012 and is available on the Elko BLM website. This assessment analyzes available data to evaluate the land health standards within the allotment and the majority of the Rock Creek Herd Management Area (HMA).

The Tuscarora Field Office is requesting your input during the EA process. Two alternatives being analyzed will include a "Current Management Situation" analysis and a "No Grazing" alternative. The "Current Management Situation" analysis will include evaluating the effects of maintaining the current grazing management within the Andrae and Spanish Ranch Allotments (Table 1). In addition, the "No Grazing" alternative will analyze the effects of removing livestock grazing from the Andrae and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

Table 1. Summary of current authorized livestock use within the Andrae and Spanish Ranch Allotments

Allotment	Livestock Type	Authorized AUMs	# of Livestock	Permit Dates
<b>Authorization Num</b>	ber 2703898			
Andrae	Cattle	7	7	6/01-6/30
	Cattle	144	72	4/01-5/31
Authorization Num	ber 2701529			
Andrae	Cattle	4,171	1,394	4/01-6/30
	Cattle	45	15	7/01-9/30
	Horses	198	32	5/01-11/04
Spanish Ranch	Cattle	21,286	4,781	4/01-9/30
	Cattle	178	1,044	3/25-3/31
	Cattle	382	1,047	10/01-10/15
	Cattle	116	104	10/16-11/30
	Cattle	36	3	3/1-2/28
	Sheep	118	1,345	6/10-6/27
	Sheep	5	925	6/28-6/28
	Sheep	43	1,250	7/10-7/16
	Sheep	42	320	10/05-10/31

Additional alternatives will be developed at a later date, with consideration of your comments and/or proposed alternatives. Consideration of your comments on issues, concerns, or alternatives will be used to prepare the EA. BLM plans to make the EA available for public review in 2015.

Please make your comments as specific as possible including: suggestions regarding resource issues or alternatives to be considered in the EA.

Please provide comments to the Tuscarora Field Office at 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801-4211: Attention Jerric Bertola or by e-mail at <u>TuscFO NEPA@blm.gov</u>. Although comments will be accepted at any time throughout the process, comments submitted by **February 24, 2015** would be most helpful in development of the Proposed Action and Environmental Assessment. Additionally, the Tuscarora Field Office will have an Open House Public Meeting for the Andrae and Spanish Ranch Allotments on February 5, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Elko District BLM.

To be considered, all comments must contain the name and address of the submitter. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available. While you may request BLM to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, there is no guarantee BLM will be able to do so.

The Andrae and Spanish Ranch EA will be issued and available for a 30 day review period upon completion. Additional correspondence will be delivered once the EA is issued and available for public review.

If you have questions regarding this project or if you would like to have your name removed from the mailing list, please contact the Project Lead, Jerrie Bertola at the Tuscarora Field Office at (775)753-0262 or e-mail at jbertola@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Adams

Field Manager

Tuscarora Field Office

2. Adams

Map Attached

cc:

Ellison Ranching Company
Mori Ranches LLC
Agri Beef Co (Idaho)
Animal Rescue Network International
Barbara Warner
Brough Partnership

c/o Wilde Brough

